Black Panther Articles

Copyright © 2020

. . .

Destiny S. Harris

Table of Contents

Black Panther Articles 1

The Best Way to Tackle Systemic Racism 3

Just Voting Will Never Be Enough 6

Don't Stay Silent 9

Never Nullify or Detract From Someone Else's Pain, History, & Positive Productive Actions 10

Juneteenth, It's Time to Recognize 17

Martin Luther King 19

Yes, Christians Can Be Racist Too 20

Go Against the Grain 22

I Just Realized What Black-Fishing Is.... 25

Rights for African-American Women 31

Equal Access 34

We (African Americans) Are: 36

Corrupt Law for Afro-Americans 37

A Tribute to the Community 40

Connect 43

The Best Way to Tackle Systemic Racism

Education and Economic Empowerment

We are constantly fed information that is biased, limited in thought, ignorant, and unproductive.

Three of the best ways to ensure you lead your own successful life that is not negatively infiltrated by outside thought and opinion is to:

1. Rigorously educate your mind.

2. Empower your economic position.

3. Think for yourself—individual thought.

Where do you obtain the majority of your information? Is it from news outlets, social media, and the like? Is it from credible educational resources such as books, academic articles, and other unbiased sources?

Why it is consequential that we obtain information from multiple credible sources? So, we can make our own rational decisions in addition to conscious choice in what we choose to believe and ensure we have as much truth as possible.

Instead, many of us are led to believe whatever social media and skewed/biased news outlets tell us to think.

Educate your mind, educate your thoughts, train your thinking habits, and educate yourself wholeheartedly--with zeal. *One of the most powerful ways we can tackle systemic racism is to educate ourselves.*

During the slavery periods, the way many slave masters were able to control their slaves was by ensuring the slaves remained ignorant due to a lack of education.

When you don't know better, you don't do better.

We are now living in a world where we can access an influx of information that can elevate our lives

and economic statuses. Instead of getting caught up in a victim mentality, fight for equality and your rights through educating yourself and others.

Education: One of the most powerful tools to bring about change.

Money and Resources: Some of the most powerful tools to bring about change when coupled with education.

Individual Thought: One of the most powerful habits that can keep a woman or man *free*.

Just Voting Will Never Be Enough

At least for the Moment

Everyone is always saying, "Vote, vote, vote," "Get out there and vote," and "Go vote," but where has voting got us? Granted, ample issues, disparities, and injustices have been mitigated (and even eradicated) due to voting, but hitting the polls has yet to eradicate:

- Systemic racism/injustice

- Disproportionate incarceration of minorities

- Financial disparities between black and white communities

- A vast array of other issues that widely affect the black community

One party cannot change the world, and one person cannot change the world. It takes a village of people to change countries, laws, and systemic

habits that negatively affect numerous people worldwide.

As we have witnessed from the protests that have been taking place, it appears these protests have brought about more change for our communities in than capitol hill has done for us.

We often underestimate how much power and influence we have as citizens and constituents. *It is safe to say that we often forget we should be the checks and balances for the law.* We need to hold those who claim to have power over us, accountable. If we don't, we will continue to see injustices happen to minority communities in daunting numbers.

But just voting is not enough, and I don't think it ever will be. There are insidious people, laws, and gates if you will that need to be removed from government and political offices and areas of power and privilege—completely, forever. The corrupt people in our government are like insects, they keep coming back and reproducing themselves in various forms. How can we get rid of them for good? Voting won't merely be the answer.

And please remember that getting one person out of the office and another one is not a *complete* solution.

America's whole system was built on injustice and unfair actions taken against other communities (slavery of African Americans and stealing from Native Americans and Mexicans). The unjust constitution, the unjust forms of oppression (police and incarceration), the unfair systemic racism/injustices that insidiously infect communities of color, need to be abolished and then rebuilt, or history will continue to repeat itself. Just like we are seeing happen today, again.

What has really changed, and what will change if the system we know today is not destroyed?

Don't Stay Silent

I refuse to ever be silenced.

I refuse to never speak out for my community.

I refuse to be a bystander of injustice.

I refuse to be passive in police corruption.

I refuse to support a corrupt justice system.

I refuse to be okay with racism.

I REFUSE to believe that Black Lives Do NOT MATTER.

Never Nullify or Detract From Someone Else's Pain, History, & Positive Productive Actions

Dear Conversation Participants: A, B, & C

To speak on someone else's pain and history is OKAY IF you have developed a genuine empathy and real understanding.

However, many people today speak on issues and events they have never experienced.

It is easy to believe the issues that other people face do not exist when you have been born into privilege or a background that is not disenfranchised.

No matter how you slice or dice it, you can't directly relate to specific individuals if you were not born into that group.

Ignorance has been the most consistent pandemic that has resulted in the demise of many people's lives. Not only death has come about due to

ignorance, but the lives of many have become unnecessarily painful, burdensome, and unlucky.

I encourage anyone and everyone not to nullify anyone's pain or history.

Victimization

Speaking about the pain and history one has experienced—on top of taking direct productive actions—is not being a victim; on the contrary, it helps bring about awareness and change for issues that still need resolution.

The last century and the current century have both fought for similar things. Those who think the present century doesn't compare to the previous century is another way of trying to pacify the on-going pain of Black communities. We are still fighting for the same issues:

1. Unnecessary killing of Black people

2. Mass incarceration (the new slavery/free labor) within minority communities

3. Subtle and direct racism in the workplace, education systems, and residential communities

4. Being targeted for merely being Black

Laws

Some laws can help bring about change within different communities, but laws do not remove racism. If laws put in place for Black people were so powerful, we would be much farther than we are now.

Rights

Have been created to maintain equality within all communities, yet so many are still having trouble accessing rights or utilizing their rights. We can see this happening right in Georgia during the multiple voting events that took place without integrity. Many people showed up to vote, yet machines were broken, and lines were unrealistically long—preventing many from having a voice in the democratic process.

Innocence

Yes, many minority individuals have committed crimes, but does that make it okay to put them away in the prison systems longer than their white counterparts? Does this make it okay to shoot them in more significant numbers than their white counterparts? Does this make it okay to abuse them in large quantities than their white counterparts? Does this make it alright never to allow them to have a voice (vote) again? Does this make it okay to take their future away from them in more significant numbers than others? Does this make it okay to entice them *not* to take advantage of their right to a trial?

Affirmative Action

We need affirmative action because generations upon generations have been DENIED the same opportunities as others. Yes, a white person may be turned down for a job today over a diverse candidate, but our community has been turned down too many times even to count. Being turned down for a job is something one can easily overcome. It takes a lot more strength to overcome being turned down for housing, loans, educational opportunities, voting, employment, medical access, etc.

This is not a race war. This is not White vs. Black. This is not my pain < your pain. This is not my country is worse off than your country. This whole conversation is to say: When Black people have a movement, when Black people are trying to have a voice, when Black people are trying to speak up, when Black people are trying to bring awareness to the issues they face *daily*, other communities don't need to come in and say things like:

1. What about the white kid that was killed by a black person?

2. What about the white kid suffocated by cops, but no one paid attention to him?

3. What about the white people being shot in large numbers?

4. What about the fact that you all aren't slaves anymore?

5. What about the fact that this century is nothing like the last century for blacks?

6. What about the fact that you all have equal rights just like us?

7. What about the fact that laws have been passed to empower black people?

8. What about this, what about that, what about [fill in the Black]?

All I ask is that you put yourselves in the shoes of a Black woman or Black man. *Oh right, this is impossible because you never will be Black (which is why it is so critical to not speak from ignorance on topics related to race).* This goes for other minorities too. All minorities have unique issues. You will never hear me trivializing, nullifying, or speaking from "first-hand experience" on the problems that other minorities face because I am Black and only Black.

When Black people come together, as a country, we need everyone to support us, understand us,

and not try to detract from the cause of our movement. If you do not understand the movement, I recommend spending some time educating yourselves on Black History.

But be careful before you speak about other's experiences. Just because you are a minority does not mean you have a complete understanding of the pain we go through. Be cautious before you bring up another community's experience and make the moment about you. Be careful before you trivialize the pain that many Black people still face today. Because when you do this, you are only showing the world that Black Lives Do not matter as much to you.

Thank you for the conversation. I will always welcome a discussion with others to learn more about their POV and experiences and to ensure I leave you with our POV.

Everyone is equal. No one is better than the other. Once we get to this point, we can work together as a global world to elevate everyone's lives.

Juneteenth, It's Time to Recognize

Juneteenth (June 19th), the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration, recognizes the demise of slavery in the United States.

July 4th celebrates the Independence of America, which was stolen from Native-Americans and built by African slaves.

Yes, the independence that was obtained by America is a great feat, but how America was built into the most powerful country in the world was executed inappropriately.

Juneteenth is finally starting to accumulate more recognition as a holiday, which I am thankful for. However, there are still vast audiences unaware of the significance of this powerful day for the African American community.

Take time to learn about Juneteenth, a critical holiday that has transformed the lives of those who make up the African American community. Be sure

to celebrate this day in which human beings were involuntarily and finally given their freedom.

Martin Luther King

“A riot is the language of the unheard.”

Martin Luther king

Yes, Christians Can Be Racist Too

And MANY of Them Are…..

In fact, I know actual "Christians" who speak many insensitive racist remarks but also praise God at the same time.

My response?

How can you be both a Christian and a racist? How can you be a Jesus follower and also hate or feel "different" towards God's "colorful" children?

For those who claim to be Christian but have a problem with people of color, I would like to let you know that you are not a Christian.

Suggestion: Spend more time reading the scriptures on the unconditional and unlimited love Jesus demonstrated and gave to people instead of hating the very same people that God created.

Christians Should Not Be On A Pedestal

And another thing, we need to stop holding Christians to a higher standard. Christians are regular human beings who make mistakes ALL the time. If you are a human born on this earth, you will never be without sin, and you will never NOT make a mistake; your natural disposition is to make mistakes. Imperfection is normal, and errors are inevitable.

For anyone who considers themselves a Christian and struggles to love all people equally, I challenge you to question your beliefs and read the Bible with eyes filled with God's wisdom and awareness. Because if you read the Bible correctly, you will see that Christians or Jesus Followers are made in His image and are to love one another.

In everything, with everything, God is Love.

Go Against the Grain

In the Race for Equality

As a race, we have a responsibility to speak up for ourselves and others when we and our counterparts experience injustice, unfairness, and inequality.

Yes, not ruffling feathers and going with the grain can seem more productive at times, but is it productive??? If we, as a race, never speak up and never speak out, what will we ever truly accomplish?

If we know someone who says something insensitive, ignorant, racist, etc. we need to have a voice instead of letting it slide and not getting involved. If we don't step in, this only enables that person to know that this behavior is OKAY. Consequently, their behavior will most likely continue after that.

I do believe a part of the reason racism still exist in such extreme degrees as it does today, is because we haven't spoken up and acted together

on the matter as strongly as we are starting to now [not to discredit ANY of the efforts that have taken place to this point, because ALL of those efforts brought us to where we are today]. However, I do feel there was a lower level of awareness and sense of passivity, at least in my own life, and from what I witnessed in many others in the fight against racism looking back.

Everyone now has a way to vocalize their thoughts and ideas. There are so many platforms at our disposal. If anything, today is the day to broadcast our message out to the world and eradicate much of the racial injustice, racist opinions, racist views, and everything else racist that we continue to see daily.

We can speak NOW. So for some of us, instead of posting only about our businesses, comedic topics, selfies, etc., we sometimes need to utilize our platforms to promote racial justice so we can make the world a better place for us our future generations.

Get comfortable going against the grain. If we do this, together, we will accomplish THAT MUCH MORE.

I Just Realized What Black-Fishing Is....

*And I'm fu**ing P.I.S.S.E.D*

I saw it. I witnessed it in some of my friends from the past, but I never knew what it indeed was until I came across some articles that broke down what the f*cking situation is.

Okay, but first, let's back up.

So Africans were sold and taken from their country, stripped of their history, stripped of their families, and stripped of their rights.

And from here, they then were forced to build America for a long time, without any credit or pay. Also, there was constant rape, beatings, abuse, poor nutrition, no education, and disrespect.

And Native Americans, I will never forget the sorrow you had to face from the people who came and took everything from you.

Oh, and now, black people, the people who built this country are being shot. But that's just a side note and beside the point….right?

Our culture, our food, our speak, our fashion, our music, our everything, well it's pretty damn good, right? Hell yes. This is why so many people in the world enjoy it, appreciate it, listen to it, wear it, and profit from it.

Remember, blackface? Well, I thought it ended, but it didn't. I always thought that some women wanted to be "tan," but if we *really* dive into it, a part of them does not feel comfortable enough to live in their own skin. Their foundation is always a shade (or several shades) darker than their natural skin. They have somehow learned that being darker is beautiful, sexy, and appealing because it F*CKING is.

Black is the new standard of beauty (Queens, we made it—finally).

Let's talk about what many women today want:

- The fat [black looking] ass

- The in-fashion that is really black fashion

- To speak like black people

- To look like black people

- To blast hip-hop music

- Etc.

BUT, they don't *actually* want to be black. They just want all of black culture without actually having to live the life of a black person, because who would?

Being black comes with a few cons:

- You might get shot, for no reason

- You might get pulled over by the police and harassed for no reason. I guess *some* police officers get bored sometimes. Idk….

- You will be judged based on your skin color

- You will often be praised for speaking educated (it's always such a surprise to some people. I suppose black people aren't supposed to speak educated??)

- You will be stared at and overly watched in stores because of your skin color

- People will double-lock their doors when you walk past their car (this totally happened to me)

- You might be offered salary packages less than you are worth because of your skin color

- If you are a heterosexual woman, black men may just find you less attractive and not their preference because well, you're black

- You might be labeled angry for simply being confident and assertive as a Black woman

- People constantly will take things from your culture and profit off it—even in non-monetary ways

Black-fishing or Nigger-fishing is the new blackface. Call me extreme. Whatever. But people of all races have been stealing stuff from our culture since we came over to this country—unwillingly, I might add.

When will we simply be praised for being dominant in literally EVERYTHING? Cause let's just face it, we dominate it all (e.g., sports, music, entertainment, business, fashion, art, research, etc.)—especially when given the opportunity.

If people are going to take our shit, can they all at least give us credit for establishing the platform that so many flourish off?

Dear women that aren't black: please embrace your natural bodies and do not try to be or look like us. You don't need to take our skin color, hairstyles, butts, and bodies to be sexy. You have your own traditions and genetics that you have been blessed with; why not make the most of them?

Dear thieves: may you please stop taking ALL of our stuff. For generations and generations, you've consistently done this. It's time you stop. Instead, create and *add* to the mix of things.

Blackface is not gone. It's SO VERY REAL. I apologize to my culture for not realizing what black-fishing is sooner — though I have been in the midst of it for years. I always felt URKED about some of the things I see regularly, but it never really clicked like it did today.

Blackface is near and dear. Blackface is still here today, and I'm not sure it's being addressed, acknowledged, mitigated, or eradicated.

Rights for African American Women

Feminism focuses on the social, political, economic, and educational equality of everyone.

Initially, non-colored women lead the feminist movement; consequently, these women reaped more productive results than other marginalized female groups within feminist movements. Hence, this led to the creation of several female lead minority groups, such as Black women, to form their movement from the 1960s.

Black women received racial contention not only from society but also racial contention within feminist movements (which are supposed to unite many women together collectively); this racism against Black women within the feminist movements stymied the progress of Black women.

Many non-colored women apart of the feminist movement did not want to integrate and publicize any issues that would perceivably “hinder” the achievement of their main goals (e.g., equal pay, childcare, and equitable work opportunities).

Taking Action

Everyone has their unique issues, and the women who would best know how to promote the Black Feminist cause were the same women dealing with the problems of being a Black female day in and day out.

Enlightened African American women felt left out of the Feminist Movement. Yes, the Feminist Movement tackled issues such as pay inequality and the right to vote, but racial and social equality were not matters highlighted. Black women could not enjoy many of the feminist movement's successes because they were not only women but women of color; Consequently, Black women were further behind non-colored women in trying to achieve equality.

Some of the critical issues Black women face (even today) include: the intersectionality of racism, lower social/class status compared to non-colored women, sexual oppression, and pay inequality not only with men but women who are not Black.

The intersectionality of class, race, gender, sexism, and political status has often been ignored. However, having a productive awareness of the intersection is how the change will come about.

Equal Access

Not having the same level of access—compared to heterosexual individuals—to quality healthcare is the new sexual "racism" for minority gay men & transgender women.

If we want to mitigate the AIDs epidemic, we cannot shun our own citizens.

If we want to mitigate the AIDs epidemic, we cannot limit access to healthcare to our own citizens.

If we want to mitigate the AIDs epidemic, we cannot play God and judge others based on what they do in their private lives.

If we want to mitigate the AIDs epidemic, we must be impartial to all individuals, from all backgrounds, and all colors of life.

If we want to mitigate the AIDs epidemic, we must continuously educate the masses.

If we want to mitigate the AIDs epidemic, we must love one another and value each other's lives.

We (African Americans) Are:

What They Fear

Creative

Talented

Gifted

Athletic

Strong

Powerful

Ageless

Spirited

Soulful

Beautiful

Favored

Intelligent

Resilient

Innocent

Not Inferior

Corrupt Law for Afro-Americans

In many on-going and past cases, the identities of "victims" are hidden or sealed, but the identities of the accused are often blatantly put into the spotlight-even if the accusations are false. One of the greatest fallacies of our judicial system is that not everyone in the system is honest. On top of that, the falsely accused often reap tainted reputations, financial loss, emotional loss, and career loss due to these false accusations. Yes, sometimes the falsely accused obtain reparations, but many do not.

Many of us want to believe that all district attorneys, judges, police officers, lawyers, and detectives are honest people who only want justice, but biases, racism, misuse of financial resources, and negligence are often rampant and very present in many cases—especially cases involving minority groups. Yes, many cases are dealt with fairly, but there are so many that are not handled fairly. In some cases, racism blatantly occurs, and nobody does anything about it; unfair circumstances happen more often to those who are at a natural disadvantage than their white and upper-class counterparts.

Often times, many people in law enforcement and the judicial system simply want to put a person in jail or prison to make a name for themselves or obtain more money for their district, county, city, and state. Private and public incarcerating institutions are very profitable businesses. I am not implying that many people are *only* thrown in jail for profitability related reasons, but this is one *BIG* reason why people are zealous in sending people to jail/prison.

Of course, we can't forget that the institutionalization of racial identities other than white is also a rampant issue-especially for black men; this is one new form of slavery, which is also an indirect form of hatred and fear. You would think after so many years of slavery that involved situations of unnecessary punishment, familial destruction, inhumane torturing, hanging, rape, unlawful behavior, etc. that people would finally give African Americans break, but in today's society, we can see that this is not the case. Many African Americans are unnecessarily arrested, murdered, falsely accused, given unfair trials with negligent handling of their cases, and hurt because of their skin color.

The right to a fair trial and case is an imperative freedom that should be afforded to EVERY American of EVERY race. Innocent until proven guilty needs to be remembered and adhered to in all cases. The news and media will often throw a person under the bus before finding out the actual facts of a case. We claim that a person has the right to a fair trial, yet we allow the media to taint audiences before a trial even occurs-which is complete bullsh*t. I learned not to judge those accused of wrongs before learning all the facts and before a trial has begun. The media often doesn't know all the information and factors of a case, and neither do we.

To change our society for better and to mitigate racism, we must first change ourselves. We must first love ourselves, and then others. We must first educate ourselves, and then others (if they are open to it). But we must always start with ourselves. Once we change ourselves, society will follow.

A Tribute to the Community

I'm more than a body

I'm more than a face

I'm more than an abomination

I'm more than an upset to our race

-

I'm not here for you

I'm here for me

I'm not here to make you happy

I'm here to live me and be free

-

We are all tired and frustrated by your involvement

Tired of your ignorance

Tired of your hate

Tired of your ugliness

Tired of your pettiness

-

Whatever happened to “equality”

Whatever happened to the consideration of being a part of the human race

But no one else is equal unless they look like you

You’re the abomination

You're the disgrace

Connect

https://destinyh.com
https://blacklistedlibrary.com